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FREEBRIDGE LYNN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

1953



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HOUSING OFFICER:

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WATER SUPERINTENDENT:

C. OSBORNE

THE ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FREEBRIDGE LYNN
For the Year 1953

To THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF FREEBRIDGE LYNN.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, My Lady, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present, for your information and consideration, the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District during the year 1953.

The general health of the district was good. The persistent fog at the beginning of the year, and its attendant discomfort of damp cold was not associated with any appreciable increase of serious Respiratory ailments. Catarrhal conditions were common, and feverish colds were frequent, but Influenza was not epidemic.

The notifications of Infectious Diseases were light in comparison with other years. There was no Infectious Disease on an epidemic scale, although Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever were conspicuous, among the relatively small numbers of reported infections.

The Flood of 31st January, the cause of much damage, and loss of life in neighbouring areas, affected only a very small portion of the District.

The flood waters in the River Ouse backed up the Polver Drain, stopping its flow, and damming up its drainage water. This spread over low-lying land at Setch, and entering 12 houses near the Drain rendered them uninhabitable.

Under the guidance of the Chairman, acting on behalf of the Council, work was soon in hand to assist the people to overcome their difficulties, and return to their houses.

Prompt and substantial assistance was given to the King's Lynn Corporation, to help their staff to cope with the extensive damage done by the flood in the Borough.

By the direction of the Chairman, all available personnel and vehicles were sent into the town, and worked in the flooded areas, till the situation in there could be dealt with, unaided, by the Town Council staff.

The event of the year was the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's approval of the Regional Water Supply Scheme, and a start was made on the active preparations for its institution.

As a result, there was no longer need to proceed with the plans for a pipe-borne water supply from the Sow's Head Springs, Grimston, to the Central Area.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government requested a seven days' pumping test at Castleacre, to prove the capacity of the Borehole source there; to provide sufficient water for the proposed Castleacre Water Supply. The test was satisfactory.

If the Castleacre scheme can proceed without impediment, and, with the Regional Scheme get on the road to completion, almost all of the District should have, within a couple of years, the pipe-borne water supply that its Council has sought hard, for many years, to obtain for it.

Now, another big "problem" is in prospect. The Housing Repairs and Rents Act is in the offing; the Bill being published in November.

Within a year from the day the Act comes into operation, Local Authorities will be required to present set proposals for dealing with all the houses in their areas considered to be unfit for habitation.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their constant kindness, and I mark my appreciation of the work of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his staff.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
J. HAMILTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

ESTIMATED MID-YEAR POPULATION — 10,930					
Births:			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Livebirths:					
Legitimate	....	....	94	93	187
Illegitimate	....	....	8	4	12
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			102	97	199
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Stillbirths:					
Legitimate	....	....	2	nil	2
Illegitimate	....	....	nil	nil	nil
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			2	nil	2
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths :

Deaths: All ages	72	52	124
	—	—	—
Deaths: Infants under 1 year of age:			
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil
	—	—	—
	2	3	5
	—	—	—
Deaths: Infants under 4 weeks of age:			
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil
	—	—	—
	2	1	3
	—	—	—
Deaths: Tuberculosis	nil	nil	nil
Maternal Mortality	nil	nil	nil

RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION

Births	21.11
Births — England and Wales	15.5
Stillbirths	0.18
Stillbirths — England and Wales	0.35
Deaths	9.18
Deaths — England and Wales	11.4
Deaths, Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Livebirths	25.1
Deaths, Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Livebirths —	
England and Wales	26.8
Deaths, Tuberculosis	Nil.
Deaths, Tuberculosis — England and Wales	0.2
Maternal Mortality, Rate per 1,000 total Births	Nil.
Maternal Mortality, Rate per 1,000 total Births —	
England and Wales	0.76

There were 199 births against 195 in the previous year and 24 more than in 1950. Births exceeded deaths by 75.

Illegitimate births were 5 up on 1952, but less than the number for 1949 and 1951, that were 19 and 17 respectively. Stillbirths remain at a comparatively low level, a testimony to good ante-natal care and sound constitution. Deaths of infants under 1 year of age number 5. In 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952, these infants' deaths were, 4, 2, 3 and 9. The cause of the 5 infant deaths were:—

1. Prematurity
- 2

2. Congenital Deformities 1

In these cases the degrees of prematurity, or defect, were prejudicial to survival:—

3. Meningococcal Infection 1

4. Bronchopneumonia 1

These were deaths from infectious diseases, and emphasise the need for education in Infant Welfare.

Practically three-quarters of the total deaths were those of persons of 65 years and over that age, and Diseases of the Heart and Circulation accounted for the majority of them.

There were 25 deaths between the ages of 45 and 65 years: from Diseases of the Heart and Circulation (9); Malignant Growths (14); Diseases of the Stomach (1); and non-Tubercular Disease of the Lungs (1).

Bronchopneumonia and Chronic Kidney Disease were the causes of 2 deaths between the ages of 15 and 45 years.

2 deaths occurred in the age period 1 to 15 years, 1 from Bronchopneumonia, the other from Gastro-Enteritis.

There were 15 deaths from Diseases of the Lungs, none of them from Tuberculosis; and mainly from Pneumonia and Bronchitis in elderly people.

28 deaths were due to Cancer and other Malignant Growths. In all but 3 instances those affected were on in years.

One death was registered as due to Influenza.

There has been no Maternal Mortality for years, due, no doubt, to maintained high levels of maternal health, and Maternity Services.

59 deaths took place in Hospitals or Institutions.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATHS **ACCORDING TO DISEASES**

<i>Cause of Death.</i>				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	....	....	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	....	....	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	....	....	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	....	....	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	....	....	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	....	....	—	1	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	....	....	—	—	—
8.	Measles	....	....	—	—	—
9.	Other Parasitic & Infective Diseases....			—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm: Stomach	....		6	6	12
11.	Malignant Neoplasm: Lung, Bronchus			2	—	2
12.	Malignant Neoplasm: Breast....	....		—	—	—
13.	Malignant Neoplasm: Uterus	....		—	—	—
14.	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	....	....	8	6	14
15.	Leukaemia: Aleukaemia	....	....	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	....	....	—	—	—
17.	Vascular Lesions: Nervous System	....		11	9	20
18.	Coronary Disease: Angina	....	....	5	6	11
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	....		2	—	2
20.	Other Heart Diseases	....	....	8	7	15
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	....	....	3	6	9
22.	Influenza	....	....	1	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	....	....	5	2	7
24.	Bronchitis	....	....	4	2	6
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System			1	—	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	....		2	—	2
27.	Gastritis; Enteritis; Diarrhoea	....		1	—	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	....	....	—	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	....	....	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy; Childbirth; Abortion	....		—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	....	....	—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases			11	3	14
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	....	....	1	—	1
34.	All other Accidents	....	....	—	2	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1953

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Under</i> 1	1—5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & <i>over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Whooping Cough	2	17	28	—	—	1	—	48
Scarlet Fever	—	6	24	1	—	—	—	31
Measles ...	2	1	4	—	—	—	—	7
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	5
Pneumonia ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	3
Infective Hepatitis ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Tuberculosis Respiratory	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Tuberculosis Other forms	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total ...	5	28	58	3	1	2	2	99

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Excluding Tuberculosis, there were 96 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, compared with 424 in 1952.

The presence of Measles was represented by only 7 reported cases, against 296 in the previous year.

Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever were responsible for 79 out of the 96 reported cases. There were 48 cases of Whooping Cough. The highest number of cases were in July (9), August (15) and November (10). The disease was not epidemic. Less than half the Parishes were affected by it, and most of those that were concerned had only small numbers of infections.

The same with Scarlet Fever. Its highest monthly totals were 9, 8 and 7 in October, November and December; little groups of cases in certain villages. 4 cases of Scarlet Fever were sent to King's Lynn Isolation Hospital.

1 of the 5 cases of Meningococcal Infection was fatal; a very young infant.

There were 3 reported cases of Tuberculosis; 2 Pulmonary and 1 Glandular. 1 of the Pulmonary cases was a "transfer" from another area, so there actually was only one case notified as occurring in the District. These are the lowest numbers for years.

NUMBER OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED YEARLY SINCE 1944

	PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS			TUBERCULOSIS: Other Forms		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1944	3	3	6	2	6	8
1945	2	5	7	1	3	4
1946	6	5	11	—	1	1
1947	4	4	8	3	3	6
1948	4	3	7	3	3	6
1949	1	3	4	3	3	6
1950	4	4	8	1	1	2
1951	4	3	7	1	3	4
1952	8	2	10	2	1	3
1953	—	2	2	1	—	1

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination.

92 Vaccinations were reported, 68 of them Primary Vaccinations under the age of 5 years. This was a decrease of 12 in Total Vaccinations compared with 1952, but still well above the figures for 1948 to 1951.

Immunisation.

Primary Immunisation:

Under 5 years	....	....	....	100
Over 5 years	....	....	....	2
				<hr/>
Total	....	....	....	102
				<hr/>

Re-inforcing Injections	23
-------------------------	------	------	----

These numbers compare unfavourably with those of the previous year, when there were 173 Primary Immunisations, and 238 Re-inforcing Injections. The position was better, however, than in 1950, when there were only 84 Primary Immunisations. The fall in the numbers of Immunisations, particularly those of Re-Inforcing, was due to the shortage of staff usually engaged on this work.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

There were no reports of milk infected with the organisms of Tuberculosis, or Brucella Abortus.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

Bovine Anthrax was reported on 2 occasions — in April and December. 2 animals at one farm, 1 at another. The prescribed precautions were taken, to prevent the spread of the disease.

The Local Medical Practitioners were informed of the occurrences.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No cases were dealt with under the National Assistance Act, 1948, or the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

WATER SUPPLIES

A. Major Supplies.

Where the water was drawn from supplies like Harpley Dams, Sandringham, King's Lynn Corporation, and Wisbech Water Board Waterworks, the supplies were consistently,

- (a) Satisfactory in quantity; and
- (b) Satisfactory in quality.

1. Sandringham Waterworks.

(a) Sample taken on 1st October, 1953, from tap on Rising Main.

Physical Characters Good.

							<i>Parts per</i> 100,000
Chlorides	....	....	....	....	....	....	3.8
Ammonia (free and saline)	....	....	....	....	....	....	absent
Ammonia (albuminoid)	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.0018
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37° C.	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.0419
Nitrates	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.90
Nitrites	....	....	....	....	....	....	absent
Poisonous Metals	....	....	....	....	....	....	absent
Total Hardness	....	....	....	....	....	....	25.0

Bacteriological Examinations.

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls. Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing on Agar at 37° C. — Nil. Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing on Agar at 21° C. — 1.

Inference. Fit for drinking purposes.

(b) Sample taken on 18th December, 1953, from tap in Softening House.

Physical Characters Slight deposit.

	<i>Parts per</i> 100,000
Chlorides	3.75
Ammonia (free and saline)	0.0024
Ammonia (albuminoid)	0.0026
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37° C.	0.0362
Nitrates	1.25
Nitrites	absent
Poisonous Metals	absent
Total Hardness	24.8

Bacteriological Examination.

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls. Number of micro-organisms developing on Agar at 37° C. — nil. Number of micro-organisms developing on Agar at 21° C. — nil.

Microscopical Examination of Deposit.

Mainly mineral matter with a little organic debris.

Inference. Safe for drinking purposes.

(c) Bacteriological Examination.

Sample taken on 7th March, 1953, from tap on Rising Main.

Result Highly Satisfactory.

2. Harpley Dams Waterworks.

Bacteriological Examinations.

(a) Sample taken on 13th March, 1953, from a Stand Pipe at Great Massingham.

Result Highly Satisfactory.

(b) Sample taken on 29th October, 1953, from a Kitchen Tap at Great Massingham.

Result Highly Satisfactory.

3. King's Lynn Corporation Waterworks.

Samples were taken by the Borough Engineer's Department at least once a month, and have been consistently satisfactory.

4. Wisbech Water Board.

2 samples were taken from houses at Setchey on 12th February, 1953. These houses had been flooded on 31st January. Both samples were reported to be Highly Satisfactory.

B. Council Housing Estates. Supplies from Local Borewells.

Generally these water supplies have been,

(a) Satisfactory in quality; and

(b) Satisfactory in quantity.

25 samples of water were sent for Bacteriological examination. 3 of these were reported to be unsatisfactory. After faulty taps had been mended, subsequent samples were classed as Highly satisfactory.

C. Private (Estate) Supplies.

The Private Estate Supplies from a River, and Springs respectively, at Castle Rising and Hillington have been,

- (a) Sufficient in quantity, but
- (b) Fluctuating from satisfactory to unsatisfactory in quality.

The variation in quality of one of these supplies is indicated in the following results of analysis of water of one of them.

- (a) **7th March, 1953.** Sample from Stand pipe.
Result Highly Satisfactory.
- (b) **2nd November, 1953.** Sample from same Standpipe.
Probable number of coliforms organism per 100 ml. 250
Probable number of faecal coli per 100 mls. — 35
- (c) **14th November, 1953.** Sample from same Standpipe.
Probable number of coliform organisms per 100 ml. 80
Probable number of faecal coli per 100 mls. 7

Water from the source, taken on the same day had the following analysis:—

Probable number of coliform organisms per 100 mls. 130
Probable number of faecal coli per 100 mls. 9

The only pure sample was the one taken in March.

The potential danger of these River, Stream, or Spring supplies, delivered to the consumer without treatment to purify them, is shown more plainly by the following example:—

16th June, 1953.

Sample from Kitchen Tap at Farm. Source of supply
— a Stream.

Probable number of coliform organisms per 100 mls.
1,800 plus
Probable number of faecal coli per 100 mls. 250

This water was heavily polluted with faecal organisms.

D. Wells.

27 samples of well water were submitted for Bacteriological examination. 15 of them were unsatisfactory. Examples of these are:—

23rd February, 1953. From a Well in a backyard.

Probable number of coliform organisms per 100 mls.
1,800 plus

Probable number of faecal coli per 100 mls. 250

This is a badly contaminated water.

2nd November, 1953. Sample from Well in yard.

Probable number of coliform organisms per 100 mls. 130

Probable number of faecal coli per 100 mls. 35

Shallow Wells are main sources of the District's Water Supplies. Good results of their occasional analyses are apt to be fortuitous ones, and generally the Wells give supplies that are,

- (a) Unsatisfactory in quality; and
- (b) Unsatisfactory in quantity, to the point of drying up in many places, for considerable periods, during long spells of dry weather.

The examples of the quality of the water that many get from watercourses and wells show what a boon it will be to the health of the Public when pure, pipe-borne water supplies are distributed throughout the District.

Plumbo-Solvency. The water supplies are not plumbo-solvent.

PIPE-BORNE WATER SUPPLIES

				Supplied to Properties		Supplied by Public Standpipes	
Parish.				<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>Approx. Population</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>Approx. Population</i>
Bawsey	...	...	...	22	87	—	—
Castleacre	...	...	...	52	224	—	—
Castle Rising	...	...	...	25*	75*	46*	138*
Congham	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Flitcham	...	...	...	12*	48*	9*	36*
Gayton	...	...	...	54	200	—	—
Grimston	...	...	...	53	205	—	—
Harpley	...	...	...	85	340	—	—
Hillington	...	...	...	40*	120*	22*	65*
Leziate	...	...	...	77	268	20	60
Great Massingham	...	...	...	185	570	2	6
Little Massingham	...	...	...	47	185	—	—
Middleton	...	...	...	90	349	—	—
Pentney	...	...	...	32	122	—	—
Roydon	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
North Runcton	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Sandringham	...	...	...	150	450	—	—
East Walton	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Westacre	...	...	...	8	32	—	—
East Winch	...	...	...	30	114	—	—
West Winch	...	...	...	92	350	—	—
North Wootton	...	...	...	69	253	50	150
South Wootton	...	...	...	211	835	—	—
Totals				1334	4827	149	455

* *Private supplies provided by the Castle Rising, Sandringham and Hillington Estates respectively.*

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

SURVEYOR AND SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year ending 1953

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, My Lady, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

1. INSPECTIONS.

The number of inspections made in conjunction with the various branches of Public Health work during the year are as follows:—

<i>Nature of Inspections.</i>	<i>No. of Visits.</i>	<i>Total No. of Visits.</i>
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT:		
Sanitary Appliances	25	
Drainage, including Ditches	155	
Cesspools, alterations, &c.	16	
Keeping of Animals	12	
Dirty or verminous premises	11	
Water Supplies	116	
Water Samples	94	
Sewerage	66	
Refuse Tips	66	
Building Byelaws	486	
	—	1047
FOOD:		
Unsound Food	6	
Food Premises for Byelaws, &c.	4	
Ice Cream Samples	16	
Slaughter Houses or Knackers' Yards (including occasional duties at Public Abattoirs)	37	
	—	63
MILK AND DAIRIES:		
Dairies Inspections	2	
Methods of Distribution	4	
Samples	5	
	—	11
PETROLEUM ACTS:		
Number of Applications, Site Inspections	4	
	—	4

<i>Nature of Inspections.</i>	<i>No. of Visits.</i>	<i>Total No. of Visits.</i>
HOUSING :		
For Repairs	40	
For Over-crowding, or Poor Living Con- ditions	10	
For Improvement Grants	1	
Council Estates	235	
	—	286
MOVEABLE DWELLINGS :		
Site Inspections	9	
Number of Dwellings Inspected	16	
	—	25
INFECTIOUS DISEASES :		
Investigations	26	
Disinfection of Premises	17	
Collection of Clothing	—	
Collection of Specimens	31	
Food Poisoning	—	
	—	74
PESTS ACT :		
Supervisory Inspections	15	
	—	15
FACTORIES ACTS :		
Factories Visited	14	
	—	14
FLOOD RELIEF WORK :		
Inspections	52	
	—	52
		—
		1591
		—

2. NOTICES.

(a) **Preliminary.** The following Preliminary Notices were served, in some cases, where personal interview showed no results:—

Housing Act, 1936	1
Public Health Act, 1936	15

(b) **Statutory.** It was found unnecessary to resort to serving Statutory Notices to get works done.

3. WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply staff has been fully employed in the maintenance of the Council's fifteen borewells and thirteen sewage disposal plants. During the year, the work of dismantling public standpipes in Great Massingham was concluded, with the exception of a standpipe to requisitioned property, and numerous connections

were made to the 3 in. water main at the Church End area of Grimston.

At South Wootton approximately 427 yards of new mains were laid by the Council's water department staff, to supply the needs of new private development schemes.

The pumps at the South Wootton Booster Station required overhaul, which work was carried out by Messrs. G. C. Pillinger & Co., Ltd., the Engineers who originally installed the plant. At Appleton, considerable renovation work had to be carried out at the Tower, including renewal of rusted struts and complete sealing of the tank floor which showed evidence of serious leaks. At the Pumping Station, too, trouble arose when the 10 h.p. motor broke down, when water had to be pumped by means of a tractor, drive belt and counter pulleys; a Heath Robinson affair, which, nevertheless, served its purpose.

An interim water scheme, for the Central Area of the District, and based on the Sows Head Springs, Grimston, was got out. The springs were gauged, and the yield proved most satisfactory, when it was decided to purchase the 30,000 gallons high-level tank at Little Massingham, for use as a service reservoir for this scheme. Ultimately, however, this scheme was dropped, as following Ministry Inquiry at the Town Hall on 9th June, this Council decided to enter into a Joint Water Scheme with the King's Lynn Borough Council, and purchase water in bulk, with five connections to be made to the proposed new 18 in. pumping main which was to be laid by the King's Lynn Corporation from Hillington to their reservoir at Leziate. It was decided, however, to proceed with the purchase of the elevated storage tank from the Air Ministry, as this could be incorporated in the scheme for supplying piped water mains to the village of Castleacre, which scheme was entirely independent of the Regional Scheme. It was further agreed to make use of the 6 in. borewell on Foxes Meadow Estate, as the source of supply for this scheme, whereupon the Ministry insisted on a seven days' continuous pumping test of the existing borewell.

During the year, 68 private water connections were made to the Council's mains, and 19 water meters were fixed at business and/or agricultural premises.

Also, during the year, 94 water samples were taken throughout the District, which is an increase on last year, with results as follows:—

FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL OR CHEMICAL EXAMINATION:

Number of Samples proved to be satisfactory	46
Number of Samples regarded as suspicious	1
Number of Samples proved to be unsatisfactory	21
Number of Samples broken in transit	1

FOR WELL WATER CYANOSIS:

Number of Samples proved safe	....	....	14
Number of Samples proved doubtful	....	....	7
Number of Samples proved unsafe	....	....	4
			—
Total Number of Samples	....	....	94
			—

4. HOUSING.

The licensing restrictions were eased by increasing the limit from £200 to £500, which enabled repairs in various instances to be carried out with less difficulty than in previous years.

During the year, 2 Closing Orders were made, and in one case the owner demolished the property voluntarily; in the other, an undertaking by the owner not to re-let was given, and accepted by the Council.

As regards grants under the Housing Act, 1949, a number of inquiries were made, but no official applications were received owing to the conditions attached.

Under the Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts, 8 applications for loans were received, 7 were granted and one refused; one of the 7 was finally not taken up.

During the year, 36 Council dwellings were completed, which is the same as in the previous year, with a further 44 Council dwellings under construction at the end of the year.

The Council agreed to the purchase and erection of 54 new traditional houses and bungalows (Unity Type), and site layout to erect 38 of these at Great Massingham and 16 at the W.A.A.F. Site, Little Massingham, were submitted and approved by the Council. In December, work commenced at the Great Massingham sites, but the W.A.A.F. Site layout at Little Massingham was not approved by the Regional Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. This left the Council with 16 “Unity” dwellings, for which a fresh site would have to be found.

5. NEW BUILDINGS.

During 1953, 137 plans were approved under the Council's Building Byelaws and/or Town Planning, of which the following 108 were for new dwellings:—

By the Council.

<i>Parish.</i>		<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Bungalows.</i>
Great Massingham	....	24	14

By Private Enterprise.

Bawsey	....	....	3	1
Gayton	....	....	—	1
Grimston	....	....	1	4
Harpley	....	....	1	—
Leziate	....	....	4	1
Great Massingham	....	....	—	2
Little Massingham	....	....	—	1
Middleton	....	....	1	—
Roydon	....	....	—	1
North Runcton	....	....	2	—
East Winch	....	....	—	2
West Winch	....	....	3	6
North Wootton	....	....	—	1
South Wootton	....	....	20	15
			—	—
			59	49
			—	—

Also, during the year, the following 60 new dwellings were completed and occupied, and the remaining 75 were in course of erection:—

By the Council.

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Completed</i>		<i>Being Built.</i>	
	<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Bungalows.</i>	<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Bungalows.</i>
Castleacre	4	2	10	4
Gayton	2	8	2	—
Grimston	2	—	—	—
Middleton	6	4	12	6
West Winch	6	2	6	4
	—	—	—	—
	20	16	30	14
	—	—	—	—

By Private Enterprise.

Bawsey	....	....	3	3	2	1
Gayton	....	....	1	1	—	1
Grimston	....	....	—	—	1	2
Leziate	....	....	3	2	—	3
Grest Massingham			—	—	—	1
Little Massingham			—	—	—	1
Middleton	....	....	1	—	—	—
North Runcton	....		—	—	1	—
East Winch	....		—	1	—	1
West Winch	....		2	—	1	1
North Wootton	....		—	1	—	—
South Wootton	....		3	3	6	9
			—	—	—	—
			13	11	11	20
			—	—	—	—

6. CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL.

Although the Building Licensing Regulations remained in force, the free limit for repairs to dwellings was raised from £200 to £500, with farms and business premises permitted a ceiling of £2,000.

The Council was also permitted to issue licences to any persons wishing to build a dwelling not exceeding 1,000 sq. ft. superficial floor area, with applications for houses 1,000 sq. ft. to 1,500 sq. ft. to be judged on their merits.

A total of 52 licences were dealt with, exactly the same number as in the year previous, although the amounts granted totalled over £40,000 more than for the previous year.

The licences issued are as follows:—

	<i>No. of Licences.</i>	<i>Value £</i>
New Dwellings — 21 Houses	19	54,168
New Dwellings — 29 Bungalows	28	57,867
Improvements to Dwellings	5	7,157
		<hr/>
		£119,192
		<hr/>

7. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year, a number of sewer extensions were carried out to cope with additional building on various Council Estates.

The scheme for the sewerage of South Wootton was not proceeded with, although an arrangement was made with the King's Lynn Borough Council to lay a 15 in. dia. sewer down Mill Lane, Gaywood, in lieu of the 9 in. dia. sewer proposed. The substitution of this larger diameter sewer was made, to enable it to take the total effluent from the entire drainage area of South Wootton at some later date when our scheme became operative. The difference in cost, for this substitution, was estimated at approximately £700, to be borne by this Council, which subsequently received the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

During the latter part of the year, negotiations were commenced with a view to purchasing the Air Ministry sewage disposal plant at Little Massingham.

During the year, 6 sewage effluent samples were submitted for analysis.

8. SCAVENGING.

(a) **Refuse Collection.** With the exception of Sandringham which has a system of refuse bays, the District was served with a fortnightly collection of refuse. During the year, the Parish of Flitcham was included in the service for the first time.

At South Wootton, which is more of an urban character, a weekly refuse collection was carried out. For the purpose of tidying and dressing the refuse tip at South Wootton, the service of a part-time man was used. This job was done quite satisfactorily and very few complaints were received. Efforts were made to employ a man in a similar capacity at our Gayton tip, but we were unable to find a suitable man.

All five Council refuse tips were visited and treated regularly by the Council's rodent operator.

(b) **Pail Emptying.** A weekly collection of night-soil was made in the Parishes of Castleacre, Harpley, Great Massingham and Little Massingham. It is time the Council considered the extension of this service to other Parishes, particularly to some of the larger villages. Each year, the four villages continue to receive this service which is not borne by any special charge or levy, but is met solely from the General Rate, paid for by the whole District.

During the year, approximately 32,000 pails were emptied by this service.

(c) **Cesspools.** During the year, a still further increase in the number of cesspools emptied was recorded. The time has come, when an additional cesspool emptying vehicle is urgently needed, as despite the number of cesspools serviced this year, the list continues to increase to such an extent that on occasions we have had to refer applicants to a private commercial concern which undertakes services of this nature. This should not arise, as I feel the ratepayer is entitled to a service of this kind from his Local Authority, particularly as a payment is made, and the vast majority are well satisfied with the services we are able to offer.

Another machine, of dual purpose, would assist materially, as in addition to easing the long list of applications for cesspool emptying, it could also be used in the collection of night-soil, if the Council decides to extend this service to other Parishes, as strongly recommended in clause (b) above.

I have to report that the main difficulty in operating these services has been the question of labour, great difficulty indeed has been encountered in trying to replace men who have left our employment for more congenial and remunerative work, and it is my opinion that the Council must consider seriously the whole wages structure of this department, if we hope to continue with an efficient service. Suffice it to say, that for months on end, the Council's Scavenging Department has been operating short of staff, as it has been found almost impossible to obtain labour, bearing in mind the nature of the work and the wages offered.

During the year, 90 Council properties (259 loads) were serviced, and 249 private cesspools (375 loads) were emptied, for which service £448/12/- was collected.

9. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year a total of 74 visits were made in connection with the control of infectious diseases, and were made up as follows:

Number of Investigations made	....	26
Disinfection of Premises	....	17
Collection of Specimens	....	31
		—
Total	....	74
		—

10. FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year a number of visits were made to grocers, butchers, etc., to issue condemnation certificates for unsound foodstuffs surrendered voluntarily.

In connection with the new Food Byelaws, it will be appreciated that it is difficult in those Parishes where there is no piped water available to enforce the high standards desired.

A total of 26 visits were made to various premises.

During the year 16 Ice Cream samples were taken and submitted to the County laboratories for examination, with the following results:—

<i>Grade.</i>				<i>Number.</i>
1	....	....	....	15
2	....	....	....	1

11. **MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.**

There were two reasonably large licensed Caravan Sites in the District, and four other sites. During the year 9 visits were made and 16 dwellings were inspected. In only one instance was any action required.

12. **KNACKERS' YARDS.**

There were two Knackers' Yards in the District, and during the year two visits were made to these premises.

13. **MILK AND DAIRIES.**

Generally speaking, the control of milk production is now administered by the Agricultural Executive Committees, with the exception of drainage and water supply to dairy premises, the licensing of milk-bottling establishments and milk retailers, which is still done by the Local Authority.

In this District, there is now only one milk-bottling establishment, whereas in previous years there were two. The number of milk vendors has increased from ten to twelve.

Five milk samples were taken during the year.

14. **PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.**

I am able to report that by the end of the year the number of reports of infestations received had considerably lessened. I should like to draw the Members' attention to the fact that responsibility for reporting rats or mice rests with the individual occupant, who is asked to report any such infestation directly to this office. A certain amount of ambiguity relative to the cost involved in

reatment still exists, whereas the position is, that treatment of all private residences is given completely free of charge; this, of course, does not apply to farm and/or business premises where a set scale of charges has been made by the Council.

Below is given a summary of the work done and visits entailed in carrying out the duties as laid down in the Act.

					<i>Premises Visits, Surveys Treated. and Inspections</i>	
FREE.						
Council Property		....	....	32	208	
Private and Council Houses		....	....	1040	6191	
CHARGEABLE.						
Business Premises		....	....	6	51	
Farms		....	....	37	222	
Totals				1115	6672	

15. **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.**

Sections 1 — 7 inclusive where mechanical power is not used, and 5 and 7 where there is power, are administered by the Council and a Register in accordance with the Act has to be kept. As regards this Council, the year's records are as follows:—

Total Number of Factories and/or Workshops	....	28
Total Number of Factories with Power	....	25
Total Number of Factories without Power	....	3
Total Number of Visits made	....	14

Compliance with the Acts was reasonably good, with the exception of one case in which a Notice was served.

16. **FLOOD RELIEF WORK.**

This is an item which, happily, is not normally included in the Annual Report. As a matter of interest, however, it is felt that the amount of work involved at the time warrants some mention.

All three outdoor staffs, together with vehicles and equipment were immediately loaned to the Borough Surveyor's Department to assist in clearing up the flooded areas. Our Additional Sanitary Inspector was transferred temporarily to assist the Medical Officer's Department in the survey of the houses seriously affected by flooding.

As regards this District, 12 dwellings in Setch area were badly flooded, for a number of days, owing to the breach in the River Ouse. This entailed innumerable visits, in connection with emergency repairs, compensation claims, and ultimately, repairs and renovations of the properties concerned, and final settlement of all claims.

17. CONCLUSION.

From the Report, Members will observe that much private building work has taken place, with 137 plans being approved under Building Byelaws and/or Town Planning Acts.

As regards the Council's own housing programme, apart from obtaining two sites at Great Massingham for the erection of 38 new traditional dwellings (Unity's), no fresh sites have been procured for future development, although the attention of the Council has been drawn to this fact. It must be realised that houses cannot be just placed on a building site; much spadework in surveying, getting out site plans, services, etc., together with legal formalities, prolongs the date before actual commencement of building operations.

Regarding the Council's Regional Water Scheme, following various consultations with our neighbour, the joint scheme now agreed upon with the King's Lynn Borough Council, makes it possible, at long last, to foresee the commencement of works, so badly needed and long awaited.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members for the courtesy extended to me, the Clerk and Medical Officer for their valuable help and co-operation, and also the Technical Staff for their loyalty and great assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. R. WATKINS,

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

